



**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**

12¢ **156**
IND. **MAY**

STRANGE TALES

DOCTOR STRANGE

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



**NICK FURY,
AGENT OF
SHIELD.**

INTRODUCING...

ZOM!



PREPARE FOR
MYSTICISM
WITHOUT END..

"WHEN **UMAR**
WALKS THE
EARTH!"



Don Bolander, M.A., University of Chicago; B.S., Northwestern University; Director of Career Institute; authority on adult education

Shamed by Your English?

You can soon speak and write like a college graduate if you let me help you for 15 minutes a day.

If you've ever been shamed by a mistake in English, maybe I can save you from years of disappointment.

I have met countless numbers of intelligent men and women who are being held back in their jobs and social lives, often without knowing it, because they cannot express themselves fully and easily.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

If people are not impressed by the way you speak and write—and if you're honest enough with yourself to admit it—you have already taken the first big step to success.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

You can master good English without going back to school. Over the years I have helped thousands of men and women right in their own homes.

I can help you, too, if you will give 15 minutes a day to the C.I. Method. My answers to the following questions explain why you need a command of good English and how easily you can do something about getting ahead.

Question: *What is so important about my ability to speak and write?*

Answer: People judge you by the way you speak and write, both in business and in social life.

Question: *What does a "command of good English" mean?*

Answer: It means you can express yourself clearly and easily without fear of embarrassment or making mistakes.

Question: *Are there other advantages to be gained by acquiring a command of good English?*

Answer: Yes! Words are actually "tools of thought." The more you learn about words and how to use them to form and express your ideas, the better your thinking becomes.

Question: *Wouldn't I have to go back to school for a command of good English?*

Answer: No, not any more. You can gain the ability to speak and write like a college graduate right in your own home in only 15 minutes each day.

Question: *How do I know your method works?*

Answer: There are thousands of letters in my files, testimonials from people in all walks of life who have used the proved Career Institute Method to achieve amazing results. If you send in the coupon below, I will share some of these letters with you.

Question: *How can I find out more about the Career Institute Method?*

Answer: I will gladly mail a free 32-page booklet to you. Just send a postcard or fill out and mail the coupon.

DON BOLANDER, Dept. 212 B
Career Institute, 555 E. Lange Street, Mundelein, Ill. 60060

Please mail me a free copy of your 32-page booklet, "How to Gain a Command of Good English."

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

"THE TRIBUNAL!"

NICK FURY CONFINED TO QUARTERS UNDER ARMED GUARD! THE SUPREME HYDRA (DISGUISED AS AGENT BRONSON) ABOUT TO ESCAPE FROM THE HELI-CARRIER WITH THE CRITICALLY-ILL LAURA BROWN! ALL THIS AND JASPER SITWELL, TOO? YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT, TIGER! NOW, READ ON... THAT'S AN ORDER!

AND, AS IF YOU WEREN'T ALREADY GETTIN' YOUR 12¢ WORTH... WE'RE TOSSEIN' IN A PREMIERE SHOWING OF THE DYNAMIC DYNA-SOAR, WHICH IS MERELY TONY STARK'S LATEST CONTRIBUTION TO SHIELD'S AWESOME AIRBORNE ARSENAL!!

AGENT BRONSON... WE GOT ORDERS FROM COLONEL FURY BEFORE HE WAS CONFINED TO GET THE DYNA-SOAR READY FOR YOU! IT'S A VASTLY IMPROVED MODIFICATION OF THE SAUCER SHIP... EQUIPPED WITH ALL OUR LATEST WEAPONS AND A VORTEX BEAM FOR EMERGENCY ESCAPE!

LOOKS LIKE THE FASTEST THING IN THE SKIES! AND I HEAR IT'S ALSO OPERATIONAL UNDERWATER!

IT'LL BE PERFECT FOR MY MISSION... DIRECT ORDERS FROM WASHINGTON TO ESCORT MISS BROWN TO EARTH FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT!

FEATURING:
"HYDRA UNMASKED!"

DYNA-SOAR READY FOR BLAST-OFF, SIR!

GOOD! PREPARE TO BOARD, BRONSON! THEY'LL BE BRINGING THE GIRL AT ANY MOMENT!

EDITED BY STAN LEE
BEHIND LOCKED DOORS!

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY JIM STERANKO
UNDER TOP SECURITY!

LETTERED BY SAM ROSEN
IN FRONT OF THE TV!

EXACTLY FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER...

TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS HEAP, FELLA! IT'S THE ONLY SHIP OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD... AND IT'D BE FATAL IF HYDRA EVER GOT ITS MITTS ON HER!

I DON'T THINK HYDRA'LL GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE, MISTER! BUT, DON'T WORRY... I'LL GUARD IT WITH MY LIFE!

I UNDERSTAND THEY'VE INSTALLED A MID-FLIGHT REVERSE MECHANISM FOR USE AT LOW SPEEDS!

JUST PRESS THE BUTTON AND THE TAIL FIN IS JETTISONED! THEN, THE FORWARD ROCKET THROES FIRE, AND THE SHIP REVERSES ITS DIRECTION! PRETTY CLEVER!

YEAH! NO LITTLE OLD LADY FROM PASADENA WILL EVER OWN ANYTHING LIKE THIS! IT'S LIKE THE MAN SAYS... WE TRY HARDER!

I CAN BELIEVE THAT... BUT, YOU'D BETTER CLEAR OUT! WE'RE ONLY MOMENTS AWAY FROM TAKE-OFF!

OKAY, BRONSON! YOU'VE ALREADY HAD YOUR FLIGHT BRIEFING... SO, I GUESS ALL I CAN SAY IS GOOD LUCK! AND REMEMBER, ALL OF SHIELD'LL BE PULLIN' FOR YOU!

DON'T WORRY, PAL! NOTHING SHORT OF DEATH WILL STOP ME FROM CARRYING OUT MY MISSION! NOW, GET CRACKING!

WITH FURY CONFINED TO QUARTERS FOR BUNGLING THE Q-RAY TEST AND ALLOWING AUTOFAK TO BE DESTROYED, I WAS CHOSEN TO FLY THE INJURED GIRL TO SAFETY!

FOOLS, THEY PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS AS I, THE SUPREME HYDRA, KNEW THEY WOULD! AND, AS A RESULT, MY VENGEANCE WILL SOON BE COMPLETE!

*YA SAW IT... WOULDJA BELIEVE LAST ISH?... SURE-AS-SITWELL STAN!

ONLY A GENIUS SUCH AS I COULD HAVE CONCEIVED SUCH AN INCREDIBLE MASTER SCHEME OF SUB-VERSION AND SABOTAGE! AND, ONLY I CAN DELIVER TO THE WORLD WHAT SHALL COME TO BE KNOWN AS...

THE PARABLE OF DOOM!

MEANWHILE, IN THE HELI-CARRIER'S DEVASTATED MEDICAL CENTER...

THERE IS NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO FOR HER! THE BLAST WHICH DESTROYED AUTOFAK AND INJURED HER, ALSO RUINED MOST OF OUR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT!

BUT, IF IT'S TRUE THAT SHE IS INDEED THE SUPREME HYDRA... AS AUTOFAK STATED...

NO... OUR DUTY IS TO SAVE LIVES... NOT TO JUDGE THEM!

WHETHER SHE LIVES OR DIES NOW RESTS IN THE HANDS OF AGENT BRONSON!

FOR, UNLESS SHE RECEIVES TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY, THERE IS NO HOPE FOR HER... NO HOPE AT ALL...

AS IT IS, IT WILL TAKE A MEDICAL MIRACLE TO SAVE HER! SO, WE MUST PREPARE HER FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE!

AND, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE CRIPPLED HELI-CARRIER...

GENTLEMEN... THOUGH THIS IS INDEED A GRAVE MOMENT, I BELIEVE WE MUST DO OUR BEST TO CARRY ON IN A MANNER BEFITTING LOYAL AGENTS OF SHIELD!

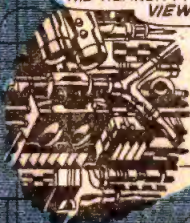
YOU PUTTIN' US ON, JASP?

YA MEAN, YOU CALLED US ALL A WAY FROM FURY'S ROOM JUST TO MAKE A CORNBALL SPEECH? WHY, I COUGH'A...

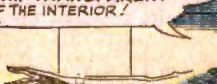
PATIENCE, GENTLEMEN! I ASKED YOU HERE TO REVEAL A TRIO OF **ULTRA-DEVICES** CREATED BY SHIELD **TECHNOS** IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE! THEY CALL THIS LITTLE DEVICE...THE **SPY-RAY LENS!**



THE **GOGGLES** FOCUS CHARGED **ROENTSEN RAYS** WHICH PERMEATE OBSTACLES TO ALLOW THE WEARER A **SEMI-TRANSPARENT VIEW** OF THE INTERIOR!



THE **DEPTH PENETRATON** IS CONTROLLED ON THE HEADPIECE... AND ENERGY IS SUPPLIED BY A **POWER-PAK**, WORN ON THE ARM!

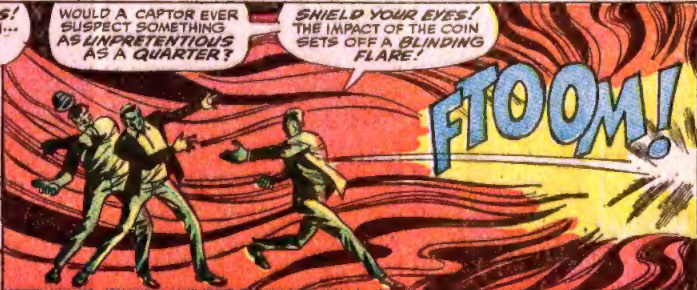


NOW, TAKE A PEEK AT THIS! LOOKS JUST LIKE A COIN... AND IT'S... WITH ONE SLIGHT DIFFERENCE! IT CONTAINS AN **INCENDIARY DISC**... OBSERVE!



WOULD A CAPTOR EVER SUSPECT SOMETHING AS **UNPRETENTIOUS** AS A QUARTER?

SHIELD YOUR EYES! THE IMPACT OF THE COIN SETS OFF A **BLINDING FLARE!**



I SAVED THE **BEST** FOR LAST! OBSERVE AS I SWALLOW THIS CAPSULE! IT GIVES ME THE QUALITIES OF **ABSOLUTE TRANSPARENCY** FOR EXACTLY **SIXTY SECONDS!**



GREAT BALLS 'A FIRE... HE'S FADIN' AWAY LIKE A **BLAMED WILL-O'-THE-WISP!**

VERY OBSERVANT, AGENT **DUGAN!** JUST IMAGINE THE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON AN **ENEMY!**

SITWELL... I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE OUT OF SIGHT!

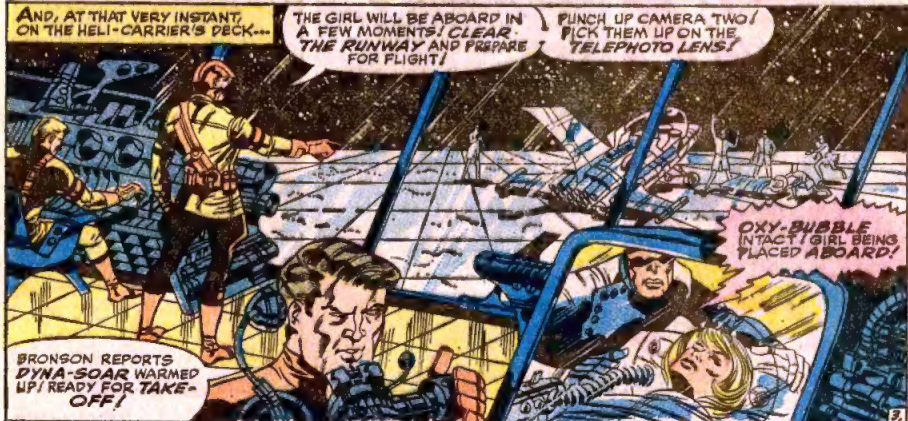


THIS IS HARDLY A TIME FOR **LEVITY** GABE... BUT, I SUPPOSE A LITTLE HUMOR CAN DECREASE TENSION!

AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, ON THE HELI-CARRIER'S DECK...

THE GIRL WILL BE ABOARD IN A FEW MOMENTS! **CLEAR THE RUNWAY** AND PREPARE FOR FLIGHT!

PUNCH UP CAMERA TWO! PICK THEM UP ON THE **TELEPHOTO LENS!**



OXY-BUBBLE INTACT! GIRL BEING PLACED ABOARD!

BRONSON REPORTS **DYNA-SOAR** WARMED UP! READY FOR TAKE-OFF!

AND, IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, THE DYNA-SOAR SWEEPS INTO SPACE, CARRYING ITS TWO PASSENGERS TOWARD A DEADLY DESTINATION OF DOOM... WHILE THREE UNSUSPECTING AGENTS OF SHIELD WATCH FROM BELOW...

VAROOSH!

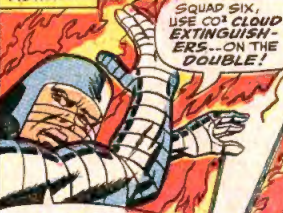
THERE THEY GO! COLONEL FURY WILL BE COMFORTED TO KNOW THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY!

THEN, LET'S STOP JABBERIN' AND GO TELL Y.M., JUNIOR!

YA TALKED ME INTO IT, OLD-TIMER! LET'S GO!

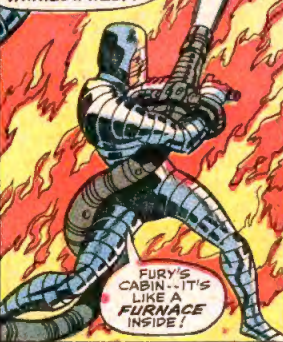


INSTANTANEOUSLY, THE HELI-CARRIER'S SECURITY CREW BURSTS INTO ACTION...



SQUAD SIX, USE CO² CLOUD EXTINGUISHERS... ON THE DOUBLE!

SEAL OFF THE ADJOINING SECTIONS OF THE SHIP IMMEDIATELY!



FURY'S CABIN--IT'S LIKE A FURNACE INSIDE!

AND, AS THE SENTINELS OF SHIELD MAKE TRACKS FOR THE ROOM IN WHICH THEIR LEADER IS **CONFINED**... EACH OF THEM IS LOST IN HIS OWN THOUGHTS...

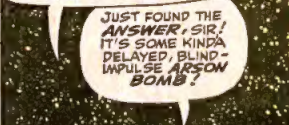
STRANGE... I SHOULD FEEL RELIEVED NOW THAT MISS BROWN IS OFF THE HELI-CARRIER, AND YET...

SURE, WE STOPPED HYDRA'S LAST COUPLEA ATTACKS, BUT WHAT'RE THEY GONNA THROW AT US NEXT--?

THEM WASHINGTON HOT-SHOTS SURE GOT THEIR NERVE-- ACCUSIN' NICK'S BOTCHIN' A JOB!



THE FIRE'S SPREADING TO THE ENGINE ROOMS; DAMAGE WILL BE **IMMEASURABLE**! WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED AN INFERNO LIKE THIS?



JUST FOUND THE ANSWER, SIR! IT'S SOME KINDA DELAYED, BLIND-IMPULSE ARSON BOMB!



DROP THE SHIP TO A LOWER ALTITUDE! WE MAY HAVE TO DOCK FOR REPAIRS!

SUPPENSE, AS THE SILENT AGENTS NEAR THEIR DESTINATION, THE VERY **PROXIMITY** OF NICK FURY'S **QUARTERS** ERUPTS IN A **PAROXYSM** OF FIERY VEHEMENCE...



THEN, THREE STUNNED AGENTS ARRIVE ON THE SCENE, AND...

WAIT! DON'T GO IN, EITHER OF YA! EVERYTHING IN THE ROOM IS CHARR'D TO A CINDER! NOTHIN' LEFT BUT A HANDFUL OF BLACK ASHES!



COLONEL FURY? HE... HE COULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHANCE!

NO! MAYBE HE ESCAPED IN TIME!

SURE... JUST LIKE YA COULD ESCAPE AN ATOM BOMB! HE'S GONE... DO YA HEAR ME? NICK FURY IS DEAD!

A PROFOUND POTPOURRI OF PERPLEXING PRONOUNCEMENTS AND PREPOSTEROUS PHILOSOPHY, ALL PORTENDING PRACTICALLY NOTHING!

ITEM! Notice anything different about this page? We decided to omit our "Mighty Marvel Checklist" and see if anyone will miss it! We figure you can easily find out what we're featuring in our other mags by merely looking at the covers, or reading the "coming attractions" panel at the end of each of the letters pages. But, if you feel life isn't worth living without the missing column, let us know, and we'll bring it back for you! Fair 'nuff! Okay, now that that's out of the way —

ITEM! Didja hear about our big junket to Hollywood last November? STAN (The Man) LEE and Cheerful CHIP GOODMAN zipped out to the coast to confer with GRANTRAY-LAWRENCE, the studio which produces the MARVEL SUPER-HEROES show. While Chip discussed contracts, credits, and various other cerebral celluloid considerations, our leader had the time of his life poking around behind the scenes and seeing how the merry Marvel masterpieces are adapted to the screen! It was really a ball — and we still haven't been able to get the sunglasses or beret away from ol' Smiley!

ITEM! We need help! You've got to give us the answer to the most burning question of the day! We get a zillion letters a week asking about Honest IRVING FORBUSH, the world's most famous non-entity! Now, our problem is this — would you like to see a picture of Honest Irv — or is it more fun to let him remain an unknown enigma? Your letters alone will give us the earth-shaking answer! (We kind'a hope you'll decide that he should remain a mystery — because if we should ever actually have to dig up a picture of him, then we'll really be in a jam!)

ITEM! Here's more agonizing addenda on the blood-curdling Brand Echh controversy! We're constantly receiving letters and phone calls taking us to task for not striking back at one of our largest competitors, due to the fact that their references to us in their own magazines seem to be getting nastier and nastier. (Naturally we have to take our fans' word for this, because we hardly ever read those mags!) Anyway, since we haven't nearly enough space to print all the letters we've received dealing with this monumental matter, we've taken some excerpts from a few and put 'em all together, like this —

"Dear Marvel, when you guys refer to Brand Echh, you mean ALL your competitors. But, there's one outfit which takes it personally. It's a shame they're so self-conscious and pitifully aware of their own shortcomings. But now they've stopped to attacking you personally. They've claimed in their letters columns that you don't write all your own stories — they've ridiculed and parodied your most successful characters — they've taken the name of your company and poked fun at it. They haven't even sensed enough to realize they're just hurting themselves, because the readers are clever enough to know that you're just clowning around while they're acting like spoiled, back-biting babies!"

Well, all we can say in answer is — there are many talented guys and gals employed by our various competitors. A good many of them have worked for us in the past, and some may, hopefully, be back working for us again in the future. We have both respect and affection for the hard-working artists and writers throughout this hectic industry of ours, and would never knowingly, by word or deed, wish to put them down. The True Believers amongst you — and that includes all our rabid readers — know full well that we find it hard to take anything too seriously — and we're prone to make OURSELVES the butt of our jokes nine times out of ten. We've gotten a kick out of the funnin' and feudin' with Brand Echh, thinking of it as a good-natured rivalry which you could enjoy sharing with us. However, if we've ruffled any feelings, we're truly sorry. We're really not mad at anybody, except the hambone who said we don't write all our own stories! We aimed with we're right — then maybe we would not have these bags under our eyes from all those sleepless nights hunched over our typewriter! And that, tiger — is that!

THE WRAP UP! Let's close with a few personal items about our own Marvel madmen. **ITEM:** We've known Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA for years, but it wasn't till last week that we found out ol' Ring-A-Ding is a volunteer fireman out on Long Island! **ITEM:** If you think that art and production are Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY's only talents, take it from us — don't ever play poker with 'im! Hoo boy! **ITEM:** Didja know that Fearless FRANKIE GIACIOIA, who's just about the best inker this side of Da Vinci, is also as good a penciller as you can find? — And one of these days, if we can ever yank the paint brush outta his hand, we'll prove it to you! **ITEM:** If STAN (The Man) LEE and JACK (King) KIRBY happen to meet in the street, they might not recognize each other! The two characters have been so busy lately that they haven't seen each other in weeks. Can you imagine producing sensational strips like theirs by collaborating over the phone? Well, you better believe it! **ITEM:** Bet you didn't know that Wondrous WERNER ROTH worked for the Bulpen over a decade ago, when he did a way-out western hero named The Apache Kid! Anyone remember that far back? **ITEM:** Not only is Darlin' DICK AYERS as talented an artist as you can find, but he never ceases to amaze us with his speed! Pick Dick can pencil a page almost as fast as you can read it — and he can ink it even faster! **ITEM:** One of these days we'll see if we can get GIL (Sugar Lips) KANE to race the Darlin' One! In completing a strip, 'cause Garrulous Gil is also a S.D.F.C. (Speed Demon, First Class!) Say! How about a drawing race for charity? Wouldn't THAT be something! **ITEM:** It's a wonder Dazzlin' DON HECK is still talking to us! Wait'll you read THE AVENGERS this month and count how many super-heroes the poor guy hadda draw in that one ish! But, y' know somethin'? He was never greater! (Okay, Donnie — now you owe US a plug!) Well, that's it, literature

lover! We'll be back before you know it with more of the same. (Aww, quit groaning! You only have to read it — we have to WRITE it!) And cheer up, Roy, Flo, Marie, Bill, Larry, Gary, etc. We'll mention you next time! Hang loose, Marvelite—victory's still in sight! 'Nuff said!



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CHICAGO, ILL., WGN-Channel 9
DENVER, COLO., KWGN-Channel 9
PHILADELPHIA, PA., KYW-Channel 5
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And there are more being added every month, natch!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.S. members!

Nicky Knorda
New York, N. Y.
Mary Connors
Pleasantville, N. J.
Michael Bouchard
Pueblo, Colo.
George Bonness
Chicago, Ill.

John Arkus
Chicago, Ill.
Danny Gilbert
Friedricton Prov., N.B.
Danny Hewitt
Festus, Mo.
James Curran
Bronx, N. Y.

Bruce Greenberg
Birmingham, Ala.
Richard Katz
Ludlow, Mass.
B. Acheson
Southboro, Mass.
Barbara Bateman
Fahram, Nev.

Robert Lebow
Buffalo, N. Y.
Kevin Bateman
Lafayette Hills, Pa.
Roy Beachand
Troy, N. Y.
George Joanis
Kenosha, Wisc.

Fred Johnson
Omaha, Nebr.
Michael Byrd
Los Angeles, Cal.
Robert Kohut
Detroit, Mich.
Robert Flaig
Ogden, Utah

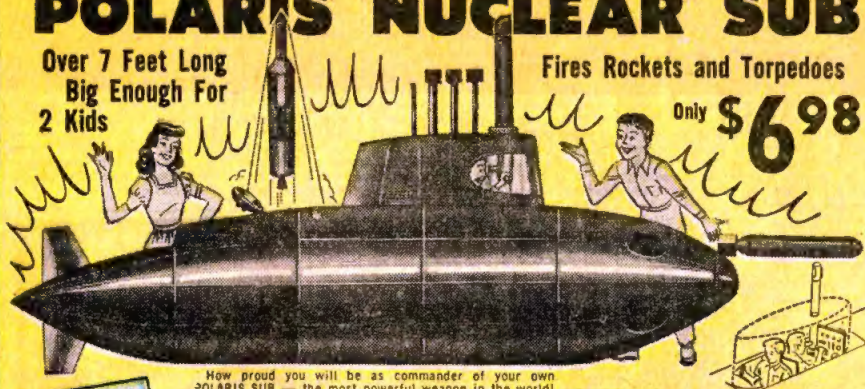
Terry Fogarty
Wantage, N. Y.
Anthony Caruso
Phila., Pa.
Gary Alsolt
Flt. Lauderdale, Fla.
Larry Hamryszak
Johnstown, Pa.

POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB

Over 7 Feet Long
Big Enough For
2 Kids

Fires Rockets and Torpedoes

Only \$6⁹⁸



FEATURES

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- Seats 2 kids
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How proud you will be as commander of your own POLARIS SUB — the most powerful weapon in the world! What hours of imaginative play and fun as you and your friends dive, surface, maneuver, watch the enemy through the periscope and fire your nuclear missiles and torpedoes! What thrills as you play at hunting sunken treasures in pirate waters and exploring the strange and mysterious bottom of the deep ocean floor!

HOURS AND HOURS OF ADVENTURE

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Order today and we will rush your POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB to you. Use it for 10 full days. If you don't think it is the greatest ever—the best toy you ever had—just send it back for full purchase price refund.

10 DAY FREE TRIAL

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LYNBROOK, NEW YORK

Rush me my POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB. I can use it for 10 days and if I am not delighted return it for full purchase price refund.

☐ SEND IT PREPAID. I enclose \$6.98 plus 75c to help cover shipping charges.

☐ SEND IT C.O.D. I enclose \$1.00—will deposit and I will pay postman \$5.98 on delivery plus C.O.D. postage.

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... that "Would You Believe"
GAG CARDS
will make you a Star
of Stage, Screen & Tv? **No?**

... Would you believe they're the
World's Funniest Cards to Flash
on Friends and Relatives, at Work,
at Gatherings — a card for every
Happening, every Occasion.
No one can top you when you Flash
a "Would You Believe" Card on them.

... Would You Believe
that for \$1,000 you can have
100 cards as Funny or Funnier
then the samples shown? **No?**

Would You Believe 100 Cards
for only \$1? — You Better Believe It!!!

Be the First to be in on the
"Would You Believe" Craze.

Flash them on your Friends —
Stump your Family —
Everyone will Roar!!!



one side of card

other side of card

WOULD YOU BELIEVE
MY FLYING SAUCER
IS PARKED OUTSIDE
?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE
A TRICYCLE
?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE
I CAN LIFT 7,000 LBS.
?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE
2 LOLLIPOPS,
AND A TOOTSIE ROLL
?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE
ADORE ME
?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE
MY MOTHER KIND OF
LIKES ME
?

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Yes!

I Believe It! Rush my sets of 100 "Would You Believe"
Gag Cards at \$1 per set. I enclose \$ _____

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order

☐ I enclose 25c extra for Special Rush Handling. No C.O.D.'s

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

MEANWHILE, SINISTER SUPREME HYDRA, IN THE
GUISE OF SHIELD AGENT BRONSON, HAS ALTERED THE
DYNA-SOAR'S COURSE FOR A SYNTHETIC
ATOLL SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC...AN UNBELIEV-
ABLE COMPLEX OF TOWERING SPIRES AND
INCREDIBLE MACHINES...A METROPOLIS OF
EVIL KNOWN ONLY AS...

HYDRA ISLAND!

FROM THIS FORTRESS...
I SHALL RULE MANKIND!
AND NONE SHALL BE ABLE
TO CHALLENGE ME!

...FOR MY CAPITAL IS
ENCLOSED IN AN IMPENETRABLE
DOME THROUGH WHICH NONE
BUT THE CHOSEN MAY
ENTER!

THERE IT STANDS!
A FORTRESS OF
INCONCEIVABLE
STRENGTH AND
RESOURCES...
THE CITADEL OF HYDRA...
AND ULTIMATE MASTER-
WORK OF MY GENIUS!

BASE ONE TO UFO...
PHYSICAL VIBRATION
ANALYZED AND
ACCEPTED! IDENTIFY
AT ONCE!

HYDRA BASE ONE...THIS
IS THE SUPREME HYDRA!
OPEN HYDRA-BUBBLE TO
PERMIT ENTRY!

YOUR ORDERS
HAVE BEEN
ANTICIPATED
AND CARRIED
OUT, EXCELLENCY!
HAIL HYDRA!

PREPARE LANDING
STRIP FOR IMMEDIATE
ARRIVAL! HAVE HYDRA
MEDICS STAND BY!

MOMENTS
LATER...

MY MASTER PLAN
WAS WORKED TO
PERFECTION!

THOSE FOOLS THOUGHT THE GIRL
WAS ILL--BUT, SHE IS ACTUALLY
UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF...
THE DEATH-SLEEP!

AND NOW,
GIVE HER THE
ANTIDOTE --
AND PREPARE
HER FOR...THE
TRIBUNAL!

IT WILL BE DONE
AT ONCE!
SUPREME ONE!

HAIL
HYDRA!

AND INSIDE THE SHIP...
HIS SCHEME TO DEFEAT
SHIELD HAS SUCCEEDED
ED JUST AS THE
SUPREME HYDRA
PREDICTED!

OF COURSE!
IS THAT NOT
WHY HE
ALONE IS
SUPREME? HE
HAS LEFT NOT
THE FAINTEST
MARGIN FOR
ERROR!

SUPPLY...

DON'TCHA BELIEVE
A WORD OF IT,
HERBIE!

IT'LL BE A COLD
DAY IN DEATH
VALLEY WHEN A
PACK O' RATS LIKE
YOU GET THE
BESTA SHIELD!

I KNOW THIS IS
GONNA COME AS
A SHOCK TO YA--
BUT I'VE HAD
HYDRA'S NUMBER
FER A GOOD
LITTLE WHILE
NOW!

YA SEE, I SUSPECTED YOUR BOSS FROM
THE BEGINNING! AN', WITH THE PRESIDENT'S
HELP, WE GAVE HIM ENOUGH ROPE TO
HANG HIMSELF... EVEN IF IT DID
COST US THROUGH THE
NOSE!

THEN, WHILE THE
SUPREME HYDRA
THOUGHT I WAS
LOCKED IN MY
QUARTERS...
I HID ON THE
DYNA-SOAR,
AN' BEFORE YA
COULD SAY
SON-OF-A-GUN,
--I WAS HERE!

NOW, YOU BOYS JUST
HAVE YERSELVES A NICE
LIL' NAP WHILE UNCLE
NICK WINDS UP THIS
HYDRA BUSINESS
FER GOOD!

SOMETHIN' TURNED ME ON TO BRONSON
A WHILE BACK... MUSTA BEEN A
KIND OF SIXTH SENSE! * THEN, HE
SLIPPED UP BY CALLIN' THE KREAD-
MOUNT BY NAME * ... BEFORE
I'D EVER EVEN MENTIONED IT
TO ANYBODY!

WHEN THAT HAPPENED, I GOT
JUST SUSPICIOUS ENOUGH TO
CHECK HIS RETINAL EYE
PATTERNS AGAINST THOSE
OF THE REAL BRONSON...
AND THAT WAS THE
CLINCHER!

* STRANGE TALES # 153, PAGE 11, PANEL 2

* STRANGE TALES # 154, PAGE 12, PANEL 1...

... CLUES DETECTED AND RESEARCHED
BY OL' SHERLOCK STAN... JUST SO YOU
UNDERSTAND THAT WE AREN'T HIDDIN'!

BUT... THIS AIN'T NO TIME FER RE-
CAPPIN'! I GOTTA FIND LAURA
BROWN... FAST! ... BEFORE THESE
GREEN-HOODED BOZOS DECIDE
TO USE HER FER
TARGET
PRACTICE!



MEANWHILE, IN THE INNER SANCTUM
OF HYDRA'S VAST COMPLEX...

IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO
ONCE AGAIN DON THE GARB
OF THE SUPREME HYDRA!
TOO LONG HAVE I BEEN
AWAY FROM THE
SECRET REALM
I HAVE CREATED
HERE!

AND, TOO LONG
HAVE I WAITED
FOR THE MOMENT
BEFORE ME!

READY THE
TELE-
STUDIO!



MINIONS OF HYDRA!
HEED THE WORDS OF THE
SUPREME ONE! THE
MOMENT OF OUR
ULTIMATE DESTINY
IS AT HAND!

FOR, EVEN AS I
SPEAK TO YOU,
THE DEATH KNELL
TOLLS FOR
SHIELD!

EXACTLY 30 MINUTES
AGO, THE ACCURSED NICK
FURY DIED IN AN EXPLOSION
ABOARD SHIELD'S HELI-
CARRIER!

I MYSELF PLANTED THE
CHARGE WHICH HAS LEFT OUR
MOST DEADLY FOES LEADER-
LESS! THIS, TODAY FALLS
SHIELD... AND TOMORROW...
THE WORLD!

HAIL
HYDRA!



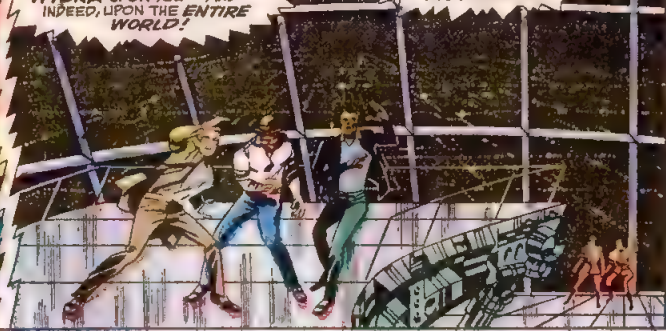
PREPARE THE **UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATOR**...IT'S TIME TO TELL ALL CIVILIZATION OF THE FATE WHICH **AWAITS** IT!

AGENTS OF SHIELD! THIS IS THE **SUPREME HYDRA!**



HEED MY **WORDS**. FOR THEY MAY BE THE LAST YOU SHALL **HEAR!** SHIELD'S **RELENTLESS EFFORTS** TO STOP US TIME AND AGAIN, YOUR **INSOLENT DEFIANCE** OF OUR SUPERIOR AUTHORITY, HAS BROUGHT THE WRATH OF **HYDRA** UPON YOU...AND INDEED, UPON THE **ENTIRE WORLD!**

MOMENTARILY, THE **ELITE GUARD** OF HYDRA'S VAST MILITIA WILL ASSEMBLE AND SIT IN **JUDGEMENT** OF LAURA BROWN, WHO WILL ACT AS A **SYMBOL** OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE **OFFENDED** THE IMPERIAL POWER...THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL MANKIND!



HEAR ME, CITIZENS OF THE WORLD... AND LEARN THE **PENALTY** CARRIED BY A VERDICT OF **GUILTY!**

ABOARD THE SHIELD **FORTRESS** IS A WEAPON CAPABLE OF **RELEASING BILLIONS** OF GERMS INTO THE EARTH'S **ATMOSPHERE!**

SHOULD WE RULE **AGAINST** LAURA BROWN, THE WEAPON WILL BE **UNLEASHED**...AND A DEADLY **PLAGUE** WILL BLANKET THE EARTH!

AND TO ANY WHO WOULD ATTEMPT TO **DE-ACTIVATE** THE WEAPON, I SAY... DO NOT **DARE** TO INTERFERE!

FOR, THE APPROACH OF **MY OBJECT** TO THE HELI-CARRIER WILL TRIGGER AN INSTANT **EXPLOSION** OF THE WEAPON!



THE WORLD NOW STANDS **HELPLESS** BEFORE... THE **DEATH SPORE...**

BUT...THERE IS AN **ALTERNATIVE**! ANY NATION THAT **SURRENDERS** WITHIN ONE HOUR WILL BE **SPARED**... PROVIDED IT PLEDGES TOTAL **LOYALTY** TO THE HORDES OF HYDRA! I HAVE **SPOKEN!**

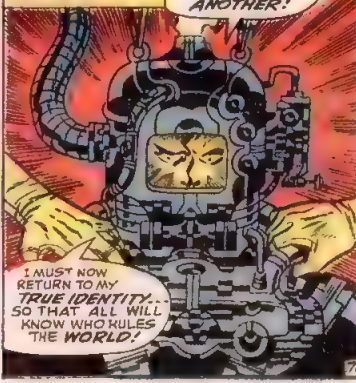
AND, SO SAYING, THE MAN WHO HAS JUST SENTENCED A WORLD TO **DOOM** OR TO **SLAVERY** TURNS AND WALKS AWAY, HIS **TWISTED MIND** PONDERING THE NEXT **MOVE** IN HIS MAD CAMPAIGN OF **EVIL...**

SECONDS LATER, THE **EPIDERM-MASK** MACHINE IS IN **OPERATION...**

THE TIME HAS COME WHEN I MUST NO LONGER WEAR THE **FACE OF ANOTHER!**



HAIL HYDRA!



I MUST NOW RETURN TO MY **TRUE IDENTITY**... SO THAT ALL WILL KNOW WHO RULES THE **WORLD!**

MEANWHILE, THE **SHIELD** **RAMROD** HAS STALKED FROM THE SHADOWS UNTIL HE FINDS HIMSELF IN THE **INNER DOMINION** OF HYDRA ISLAND... A MULTIPLICITY OF LOFTY, TAPERING SPIRES AND TENUOUS CONICAL NEEDLES! A **COLOSSUS** OF STEEPLES AND PYRAMIDS, OF TURRETS, DOMES, AND OBELISKS... LIKE TOWERING **EVIL FINGERS** OF STEEL AND GLASS, REACHING UPWARD AS THOUGH TO BLOT OUT THE VERY STARS ABOVE!

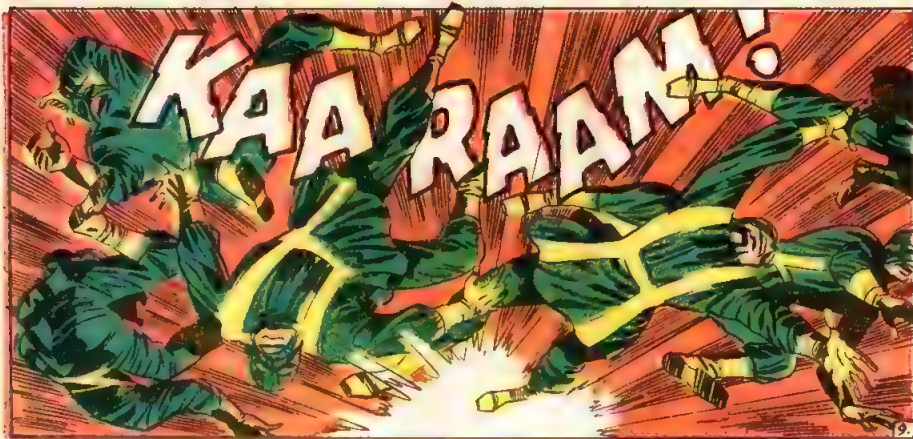
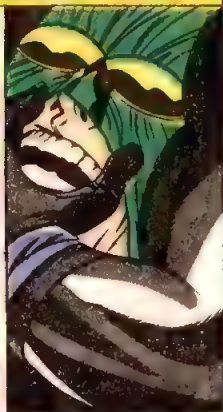
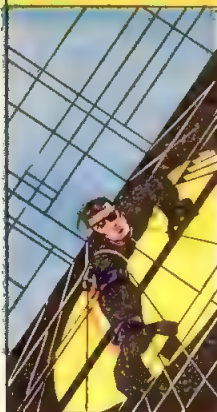
WHO'D BELIEVE A SET-UP LIKE THIS? IF I DIDN'T SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYE... IT'S EVEN HIDDEN FROM AERIAL VIEW BY THAT BLAMED **BUBBLE** THAT REFLECTS THE WATER!

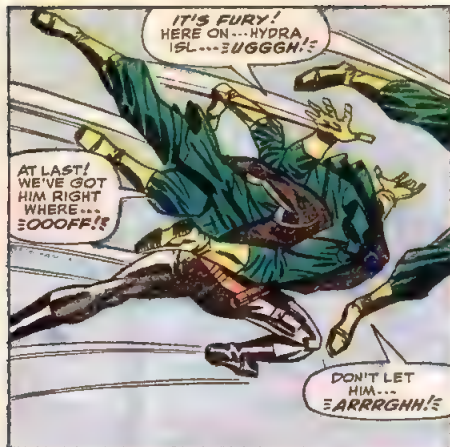
NO WONDER NOBODY EVER FOUND THIS BLASTED PLACE! THEY CAN PROBABLY MOVE IT, TOO... SO'S IT CAN'T EVEN BE DETECTED ACCIDENTALLY!

BUT, THIS AIN'T NO TIME TO BECOME A BUG ON EVASION TACTICS! I GOT A MISSION TO TAKE CARE OF... AND THERE AIN'T MUCH TIME TO DO IT IN!

EUH OH! SOMETHIN' TELLS ME ALL A THEM HYDRA JOY-BOYS DOWN THERE AIN'T GATHERIN' FOR NO **SUNDAY SOCIAL**! IT MUST MEAN THE **HEAD CHEESE** --AND **LAURA** --AIN'T VERY FAR AWAY!

THEN, MOVING WITH THE SILENT STEALTH OF A PANTHER STALKING ITS PREY, NICK FURY CLOSES IN... AND STRIKES...

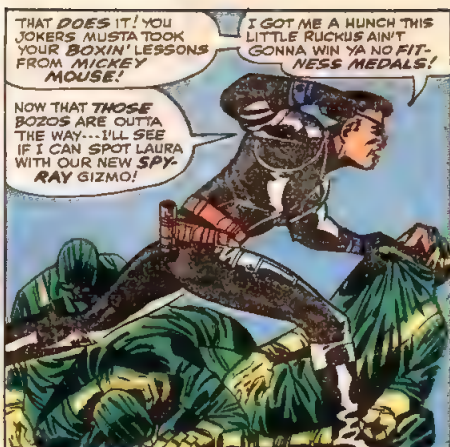




IT'S FURY!
HERE ON...HYDRA!
ISL...EUGGGH!!

AT LAST!
WE'VE GOT
HIM RIGHT
WHERE...
=OOOFF!!

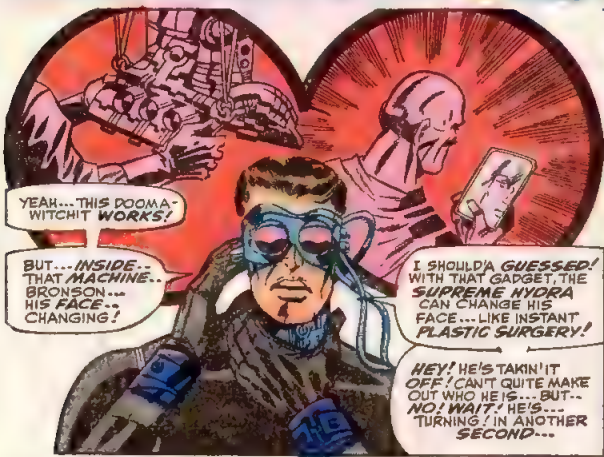
DON'T LET
HIM...
=ARRRRGH!!



THAT DOES IT! YOU
JOKERS MUSTA TOOK
YOUR BOXIN' LESSONS
FROM MICKEY
MOUSE!

I GOT ME A HUNCH THIS
LITTLE RUCKUS AIN'T
GONNA WIN YA NO FIT-
NESS MEDALS!

NOW THAT THOSE
BOZOS ARE OUTTA
THE WAY...I'LL SEE
IF I CAN SPOT LAURA
WITH OUR NEW SPY-
RAY GIZMO!



YEAH...THIS DOOMA-
WITCHIT WORKS!

BUT...INSIDE--
THAT MACHINE...
BRONSON...
HIS FACE--
CHANGING!

I SHOULD'A GUESSED!
WITH THAT GADGET, THE
SUPREME HYDRA
CAN CHANGE HIS
FACE...LIKE INSTANT
PLASTIC SURGERY!

HEY! HE'S TAKIN' IT
OFF! CAN'T QUITE MAKE
OUT WHO HE IS...BUT..
NO! WAIT! HE'S...
TURNING IN ANOTHER
SECOND...



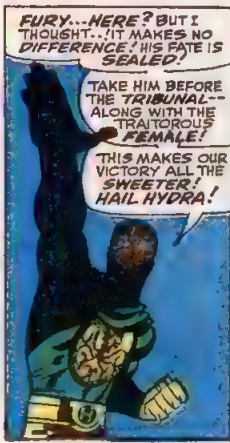
BUT, AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT...

CRACK!



HYDRA GUARD CALLING IMPERIAL
QUARTERS! NICK FURY RENDERED
UNCONSCIOUS BY STUN-PISTOL ON
THIRD LEVEL ESPLANADE!
INSTRUCT AT
ONCE!

TAKE HIM
TO THE
TRIBUNAL...
IMMEDIATELY!



FURY...HERE? BUT I
THOUGHT...IT MAKES NO
DIFFERENCE! HIS FATE IS
SEALED!

TAKE HIM BEFORE
THE TRIBUNAL--
ALONG WITH THE
TRAITOROUS
FEMALE!

THIS MAKES OUR
VICTORY ALL THE
SWEETER! HAIL HYDRA!



MINUTES PASS...THEN FURY WAKES,
AWE-STRIKEN BY THE UNBELIEVABLE
SIGHT BEFORE HIM...

BARON STRUCKER!

YES, NICK FURY, WE MEET AGAIN, AFTER THESE **MANY YEARS!** HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? OVER **TWENTY YEARS?—EXACTLY 24 YEARS!**

YOU AND THE CURSED AMERICANS WON THE **FIRST BATTLE!** NOW, WE WAGE **ANOTHER WAR!** A WAR BETWEEN THE LEGIONS OF **HYDRA** AND THE ENTIRE **FREE WORLD!**

THIS TIME, HOWEVER, IT IS **I** WHO SHALL EMERGE AS THE VICTOR! I, **BARON STRUCKER**, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE NAZI **BLITZKRIEG SQUADRON!**


BUT, ENOUGH OF THIS! THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO STAND BEFORE THE **TRIBUNAL**, AND BE **JUDGED** FOR YOUR MANY AND VARIED **CRIMES** AGAINST **HYDRA!**

YOUR **RECORD** SPEAKS FOR ITSELF...THE EVIDENCE IS **UNDENIABLE!** **NICHOLAS FURY**, I CHARGE THE **JURY** TO NOW BRING FORWARD A **VERDICT!**

HOW SAY YOU, MEN OF **HYDRA**... **GUILTY OR INNOCENT?**

GUILTY!!





THEN, I SENTENCE
THE PRISONER TO
DEATH BY ALPHA
PARTICLE
EXPOSURE!

AND I FURTHER
DECREE THAT HIS
BODY BE USED AS A
MODEL FOR AN ARMY
OF HYDRA ANDROIDS
WITH WHICH WE SHALL
POLICE THE EARTH!
THAT SHALL BE THE
SUPREME IRONY!

IN ANOTHER SECOND, I WILL PRESS
THIS LEVER WHICH ACTIVATES THE
ALPHA-TRON! THIS, IN TURN, SHALL
CAUSE A SIXTY-MINUTE-DELAYED
DETONATION OF THE DEATH SPORE
IN THE BELLY OF THE HELI-CARRIER!
ONLY WE SHALL BE SAFE...
WITHIN OUR PROTECTIVE
DOME!

HYDRA WILL
RULE THE
WORLD.. AND
I AM
HYDRA!

HAIL
HYDRA!

CLICK!

NEXT: **SHOWDOWN!**

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only \$1.60 EA. PLUS 25¢ FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING

WRITE SIZE IN COUPON BELOW
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ADULT - SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE



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2. THE HULK			
3. DR. STRANGE			
4. THE AVENGERS			
5. SPIDER-MAN			
6. DAREDEVIL			
7. IRON MAN			
8. THOR			
9. X-MEN			
10. SGT. FURY			
TOTAL			

MARVEL SWEAT-SHIRTS



PLEASE SEND
THING SWEAT-SHIRTS
PLEASE SEND
HULK SWEAT-SHIRTS

CHECK SIZE
THING ☐ YOUTH ☐ ADULT
HULK ☐ YOUTH ☐ ADULT

TOTAL

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TOTAL

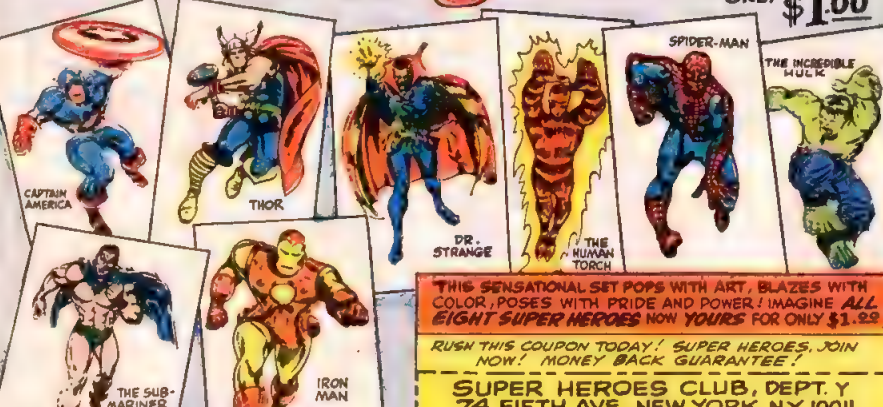
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EXTRA FOR EACH CANADIAN
AND EUROPEAN ORDER. ALLOW
3 TO 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

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CITY _____ STATE _____

I understand that by ordering KARATE, I am promptly bound and obligated never to practice KARATE as an aggressor only to defend myself and my loved ones.

Dr. STRANGE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!

UMAR WALKS THE EARTH!

INTRODUCING:

ZOM!

IN ORDER TO FOIL THE FIENDISH UMAR, I HAVE SENT MY DISCIPLE, DR. STRANGE, TO A FAR DISTANT UNIVERSE--

THE ANCIENT ONE HAS THUS BANISHED ME-- NOW, WHEN I AM NEEDED MOST!

BUT, HE IS AGED--HE IS FEEBLE! HE ALONE CAN NEVER HOPE TO DEFEAT UMAR!

SHE MUST BE DRIVEN BACK-- BACK TO THE DEMONIAC DARK DIMENSION--

--OR ELSE, ALL OF EARTH IS SURELY DOOMED!

BRAND YE THESE NECROMANTIC NAMES UPON THY BRAIN, O TRUE BELIEVER--FOR THEY HAVE TRULY CREATED, IN THINE OWN BEHALF, ENCHANTMENT WITHOUT END

STAN LEE and MARIE SEVERIN

LETTERED BY ARTIE SIMEK

THROUGHOUT THIS STRANGE, MYSTERIOUS GLOBE OF OURS, ONE FACT IS EVER TRUE--

NO MATTER WHAT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT MAY HOLD FOR ANY OF US--

SO, I TOLD THE BOSS HE EITHER GIVES ME A RAISE, OR HE GETS HIMSELF A NEW BOY!

ANOTHER HALF HOUR AND I'LL BE HEADIN' HOME FOR DINNER!

I WONDER HOW FRANKIE DID ON HIS HISTORY EXAM TODAY?

--WE CAN NEVER REALLY KNOW WHAT STARTLING ENCHANTMENT THE VERY NEXT INSTANT MAY BRING--

THE BOSS LOOKED AT ME LIKE-- HEY!!

THAT BLINDING LIGHT!! A GIRL-- FLOATING IN THE AIR--!!

AT LAST! I HAVE BROKEN THE COVENANT!

AFTER ALL THESE AGES--ALL THESE MILLENNIA--UMAR APPEARS ON EARTH!

CAN'T SEE!! IT'S AS THOUGH --A MILLION SUNS-- ARE SHINING--IN MY EYES--!!

NO SOONER DOES THE UNSPEAKABLE SORCERESS REACH THE GROUND, THEN THE BLINDING BEAM OF SHEER, MYSTIC ENERGY INSTANTLY VANISHES, AS--

WHAT IS THIS?!

MERE, HAPLESS HUMANS HAVE THE TEMERITY TO APPROACH THE SISTER OF DORMAMMUR!!

LET THEM ALL BEGONE!!

WHY??

WHERE UMAR WALKS-- SHE WALKS ALONE!

AND, HALF A WORLD AWAY, ON A TOWERING HIMALAYAN PEAK, A SILENT FIGURE STANDS...

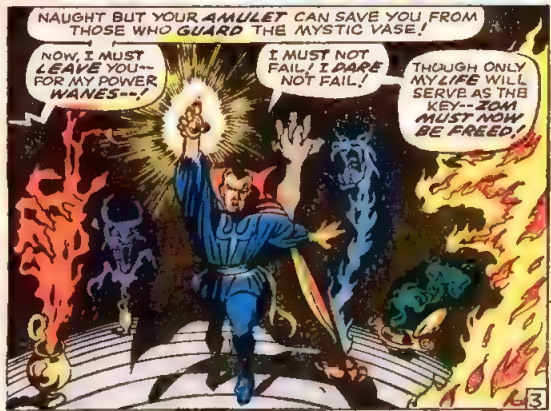
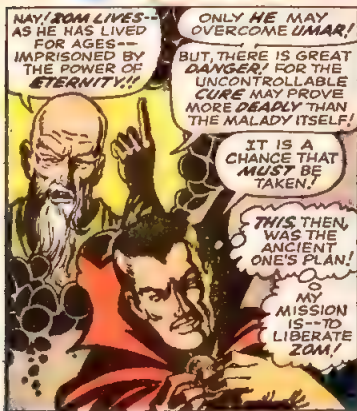
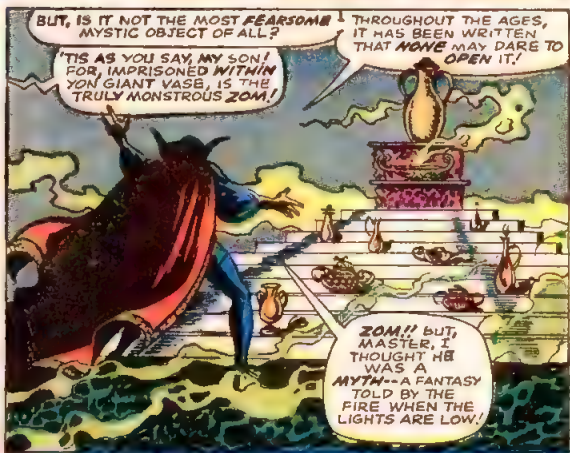
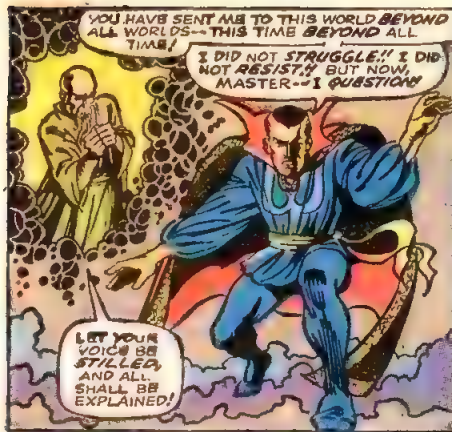
THE MISTRESS OF THE DARK DIMENSION PREPARES TO STRIKE!

THE TIME IS COME TO SUMMON MY DISCIPLE ONCE AGAIN!

AWAKE, MY SON! THE MOST FATEFUL TASK OF ALL NOW LIES BEFORE YOU!

THE VOICE OF THE VENERATED ANCIENT ONE!

THEN MY MOMENT OF DESTINY HAS COME AT LAST!



STAMPS

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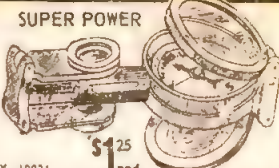
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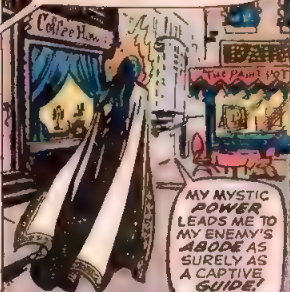
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MEANWHILE, AT THE GREENWICH VILLAGE SANCTUM OF THE MYSTIC ARTS--

THOUGH THE CHAMBER IS WELL-HEATED--I FEEL A SUDDEN CHILL!

GREAT EVIL IS AFOOT!! AND IT DRAWS EVER CLOSER!

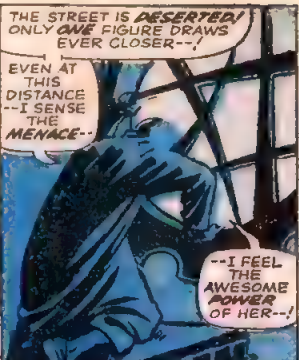
BUT, DR. STRANGE IS GONE-- AND ONLY I, HIS HUMBLE, MANSERVANT, MAY CONFRONT THAT WHICH APPROACHES--!



MY MYSTIC POWER LEADS ME TO MY ENEMY'S ABODE AS SURELY AS A CAPTIVE GUIDE!

THE STREET IS DESERTED! ONLY ONE FIGURE DRAWS EVER CLOSER--!

EVEN AT THIS DISTANCE--I SENSE THE MENACE--



--I FEEL THE AWESOME POWER OF HER--!

I NEED PROCEED NO FURTHER!

THOUGH I HAVE REACHED HIS HOME, THERE IS NO AURA OF DR. STRANGE!

THEREFORE, HE HAS ALREADY FLED!



BUT UMAR MAY NOT BE DEFIED! I WILL GIVE EVIDENCE OF MY WRATH--FOR ALL TO SEE--AND TREMBLE AT!



MOMENTS LATER, HAVING REMOVED HER FATEFUL SPELL, THE CITY RETURNS TO NORMAL--AL EXCEPT ONE SMALL AREA WHERE STOOD THE BUILDING WHICH HOUSED OUR HERO--!

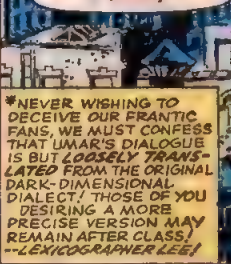
HOW COULD A FIRE HAVE SO COMPLETELY LEVELLED THAT BROWN-TONE WITH-OUT TOUCHING ANY OF THE NEIGHBORING STRUCTURES?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS, BUT--IT WASN'T A FIRE!

SO!! THIS IS THE WORLD THE ACCURSED MORTAL IS SWORN TO PROTECT!!

WITH BUT ONE SIMPLE INCANTATION I SHALL CAUSE SUCH CARNAGE THAT MEN WILL SPEAK OF IT FOR A THOUSAND YEARS TO COME!*



NO! FIRST, THERE IS A MATTER OF STILL GREATER IMPORTANCE!

*NEVER WISHING TO DECEIVE OUR FRANTIC FANS, WE MUST CONFESS THAT UMAR'S DIALOGUE IS BUT LOOSELY TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL DARK-DIMENSIONAL DIALECT! THOSE OF YOU DESIRING A MORE PRECISE VERSION MAY REMAIN AFTER CLASS! --LEXICOGRAPHER LEE!

NO MATTER WHERE THE
AGED ANCIENT ONE MAY
BE--UMAR'S BOLT OF
BEDEVILMENT SHALL
FIND HIM!

SECOND...

ZZZZ

K K K

THE TIME IS COME!

UMAR ATTACKS AT LAST!

WE'LL HAVE TO
CALL THE **REPAIR MAN!**
THE TV'S ON THE **BLINK!**

BUT,
IT'S
NOT
JUST
THE
SET!

THE PHONE IS DEAD,
TOO! AND THE
LIGHTS ARE FLICKER-
ING!

YES--SOMETHING IS AFFECTING THE NORMAL
POWER SOURCES ON EARTH--SOMETHING
FROM THE *DARK DIMENSION*--SOMETHING
KNOWN TO THE WORLD OF NECROMANCY AS--
UMAR!!

**SOON WE
SHALL BE FACE
TO FACE!**

BUT I, ALAS,
AM AGED
AND FEEBLE--

IT IS DR. STRANGE WHO HOLDS THE FATE OF HUMANITY WITHIN HIS GRASP!

NOW, MORE
THAN EVER,
HE MUST
NOT FAIL!

**SOMETHING
IS AFFECTING
THE POWER-
AND IT'S
HAPPENING
ALL OVER!**

AND, SPEAKING OF OUR MAGICAL, MYSTICAL MARVEL--

AGES AGO--
THE LEGENDS
TELL-- THE
MONSTROUS
ZOM WAS
HEREWITH
IMPRISONED--
TO GUARD
THE
UNIVERSE
FROM
HIS
MIGHT!

BUT NOW-- SO GREAT
IS THE DANGER TO
ALL-- THAT HE
MUST BE FREED!

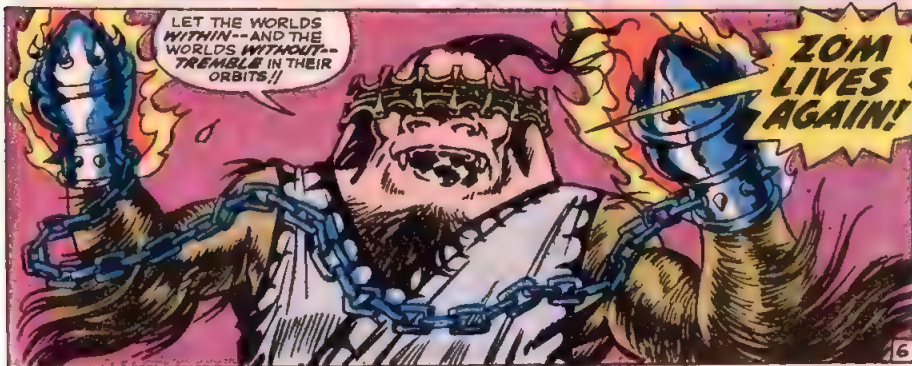
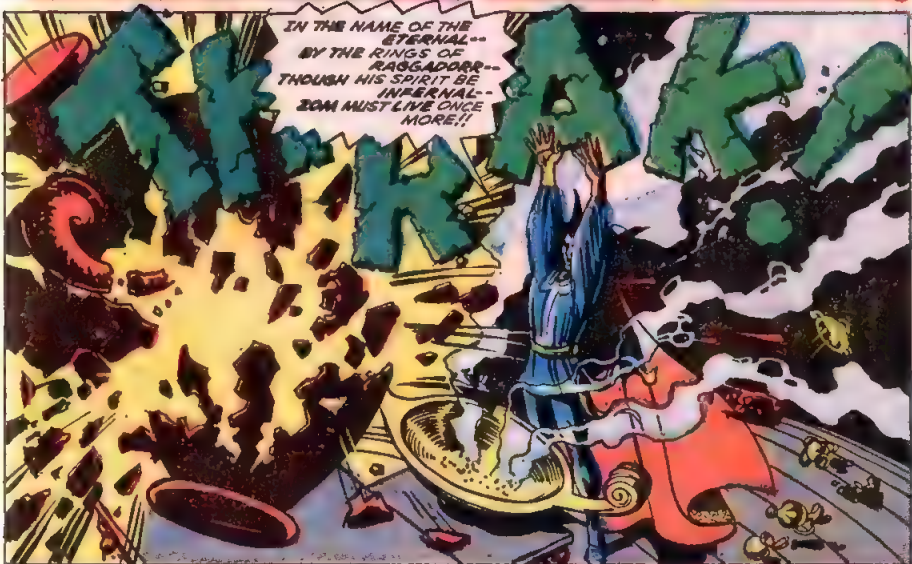
YET STILL
DO I PRAY
THAT I DO NOT
UNLEASH UPON
THE WORLD A
FAR WORSE
THREAT THAN
UMAR HERSELF!

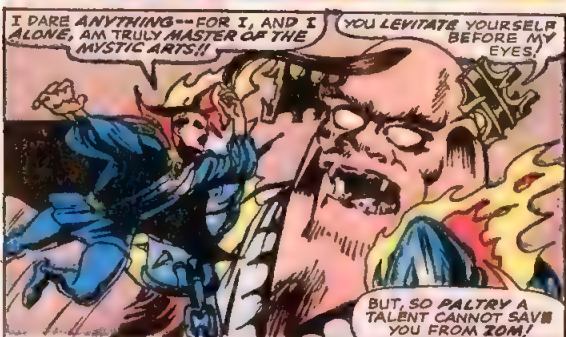
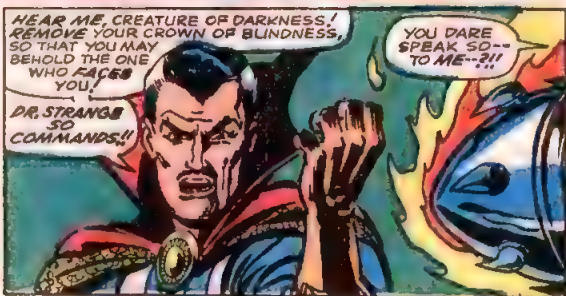
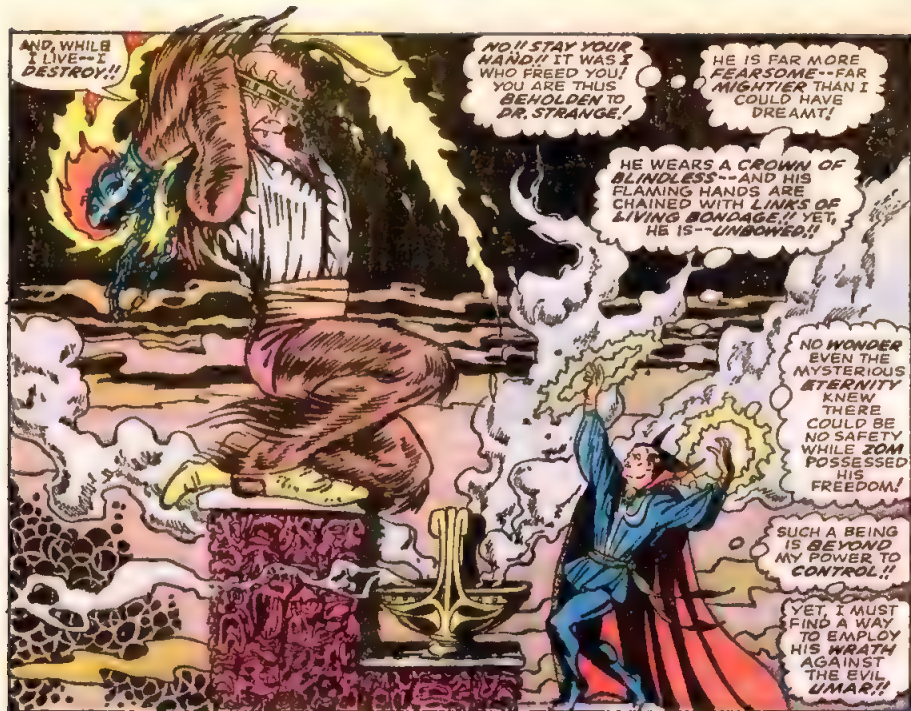
BUT, I HAVE COME TOO
FAR TO TURN BACK!

WHAT
MUST
BE DONE--
SHALL
NOW
BE DONE!

TO THE ICONS OF
THE INFINITE I
DO BESTOW THE
CRIMSON
CRYSTALS
OF CYTTORAK!

NOW--
LET THE
ENCHANTMENT
BEGIN--!!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

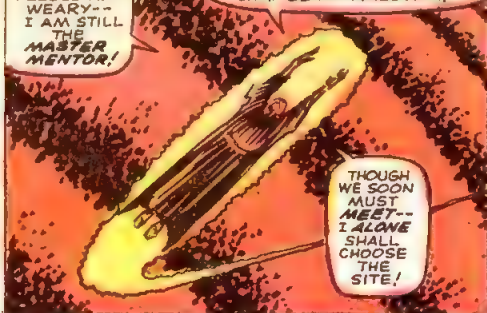
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE AGED, BUT STILL
DEFIANT VOICE OF THE ANCIENT ONE RINGS
OUT FROM THE VERY BOWELS OF THE EARTH--

UMAR--CREATURE
OF INFINITE EVIL--
HEAR YOU MY
WORDS--!



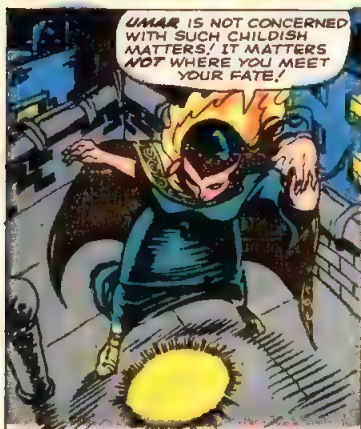
THOUGH MY
LIMBS BE
FEEBLE AND
WEARY--
I AM STILL
THE
MASTER
MENTOR!

SEE HOW I RESIST YOUR DEADLY
SUMMONS! SEE HOW I NOW
CHANGE MY DIRECTION!



THOUGH
WE SOON
MUST
MEET--
I ALONE
SHALL
CHOOSE
THE
SITE!

UMAR IS NOT CONCERNED
WITH SUCH CHILDISH
MATTERS! IT MATTERS
NOT WHERE YOU MEET
YOUR FATE!



ALL THAT
MATTERS
IS--THE
ANCIENT
ONE MUST
DIE!

AND THEN THE LIFE OF
DR. STRANGE
SHALL NEXT
BE FORFEIT!

THUS
SPEAKS
UMAR!



HAN! SO THAT IS
THE BATTLEGROUND
YOU HAVE CHOSEN!
WELL AND GOOD!
I SHALL JOIN YOU
WITH THE SPEED OF
RANDOM
THOUGHT!



INSTANTLY, UMAR
VANISHES--AND
WITH HIS PASSING,
THE CITY SEEMS TO
RETURN TO LIFE
ONCE MORE--!

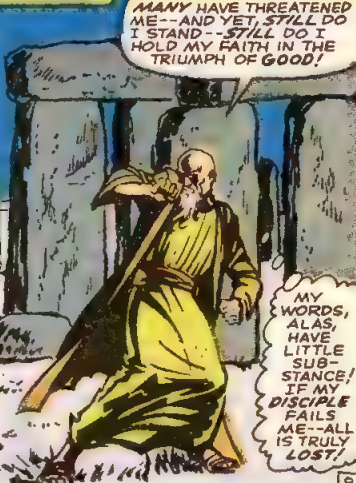
WHILE, IN THE LONELY VASTNESS OF STONEHENGE--THE FORBIDDING REPOSITORY OF RELICS FROM
AN AGE LONG DEAD--THE FATEFUL CONFRONTATION FINALLY OCCURS--

SO! YOU HAVE CHOSEN STONEHENGE, THE
SITE UPON WHICH YOU ONCE HUMBLING MY
BROTHER, THE DREAD DORMAMMU, IN
THE DIM, HALF-FORGOTTEN PAST!

HOW FITTING
THAT YOU YOUR-
SELF SHALL MEET
YOUR FINAL DOOM
UPON THE SELF-
SAME MYSTIC
GROUND!



MANY HAVE THREATENED
ME--AND YET, STILL DO
I STAND--STILL DO I
HOLD MY FAITH IN THE
TRIUMPH OF GOOD!



MY
WORDS,
ALAS,
HAVE
LITTLE
SUB-
STANCE!
IF MY
DISCIPLE
FAILS
--ALL
IS TRULY
LOST!

IF YOU WISH YOUR END TO BE PAINLESS, HELPLESS ONE,
TELL ME--WHERE IS DR. STRANGE??

THAT YOU
SHALL
LEARN AT
A TIME OF
HIS OWN
CHOOS-
ING--
AND NOT
BEFORE!

AND NOW--KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE, I AM NOT
SO HELPLESS AS YOU
THINK!

SURELY YOU DO NOT
EXPECT SUCH
INEFFECTUAL
MYSTIC BODIES
TO STAY THE ATTACK
OF UMAR??!

NOW--FEEL THE POWER
AT MY COMMAND!

--THE POWER OF THE DARK
DIMENSION!

IT WAS YOU WHO
DEFEATED
DORMAMMU,
LO, THOSE MANY
YEARS AGO!!

THUS, IT IS TRULY
FITTING THAT IT BE
UMAR, HIS SISTER,
WHO PREPARES TO
SLAY YOU NOW!

SO FAR, THE SHADES
OF THE SERAPHIM!
PROTECT ME! BUT,
I GROW EVER
WEAKER!

STILL,
SHE
MUST
BE HELD
AT BAY--
FOR THE
SAKE OF
HUMAN-
KIND!

AND THEN, LIKE A VENGEFUL, DEAFENING PAEAN OF DOOM, THE VOICE OF DR. STRANGE THUNDERS THRU THE NIGHT--

BEHIND
YOU, UMAR! TURN--
IF YOU DARE--AND
FACE THE ONE WHO
SHALL VANQUISH
YOU!

YOU HAVE
COME--AT LAST!

BUT THEN, AS THE EVIL ENCHANTRESS WHIRLS ABOUT TO
FACE HER INTENDED VICTIM, HER STARTLED, ALL-BUT-UNCOM-
PREHENDING EYES BEHOLD--

ZOM!

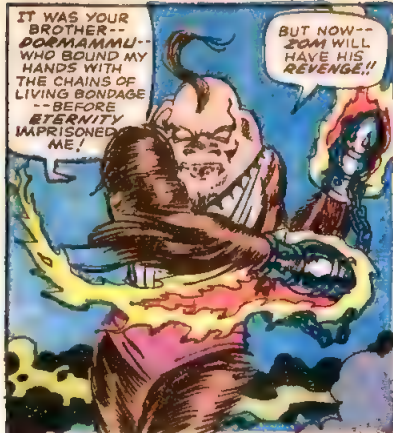
THE AWESOME
APPARITION
WHOSE POWER
DWARFS MY
OWN!

HE PURSUED
ME HERE,
INTENDING TO
MAKE ME HIS
VICTIM!

BUT, I
STUMBLERED ON ONE
THING--IF
I COULD
LEAD HIM
TO YOU, HE
WOULD
ATTACK THE
ONE WHO
CLAIMS TO
HAVE THE
GREATEST
POWER!

BUT, DESPITE YOUR POWER--
DESPITE YOUR COURAGE--
THE BATTLE CAN HAVE BUT
ONE OUTCOME!! FOR THE
OCULT SEALS AND WEAPONS
OF A THOUSAND DIMENSIONS
ARE MINE!

THOUGH YOU ARE A
MASTER IN YOUR OWN
RIGHT--COMPARED TO THE
UMAR--YOU STAND
DISARMED--AND HELPLESS!



IT WAS YOUR BROTHER--
DORMAMMU--
WHO BOUND MY
HANDS WITH
THE CHAINS OF
LIVING BONDAGE
--BEFORE
ETERNITY
IMPRISONED
ME!

BUT NOW--
ZOM WILL
HAVE HIS
REVENGE!!

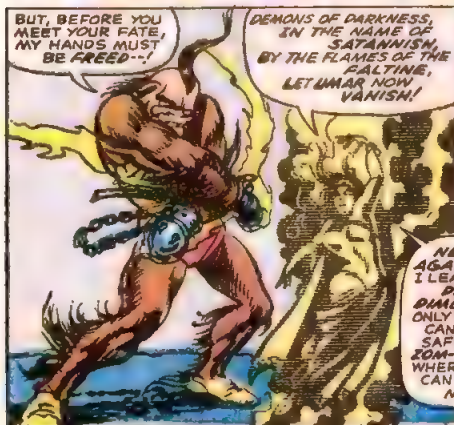
BACK, MONSTROUS
ONE!! NO MATTER
YOUR POWER--
NO MATTER YOUR
STRENGTH-- IT IS
UMAR YOU FACE--!

UMAR, THE
INVINCIBLE
SOVEREIGN-
ESS OF THE
DARK
DIMENSION!

IT IS **USELESS!**
MY SPELLS TURN
TO **VAPOR** IN
THE FIERY
FUMES WHICH
SWIRL ABOUT
HIS FLAMING
MANACLES!

THROUGH THE END-
LESS DIMENSIONS
IT HAS BEEN
PROPHESIED-- IF
ZOM SHOULD EVER
BREAK FREE, NO
POWER IN THE
UNIVERSE COULD
STAND AGAINST
HIM!

YOU ARE
HELPLESS,
SISTER OF
DORMAMMU!
HELPLESS
BEFORE
ZOM--!



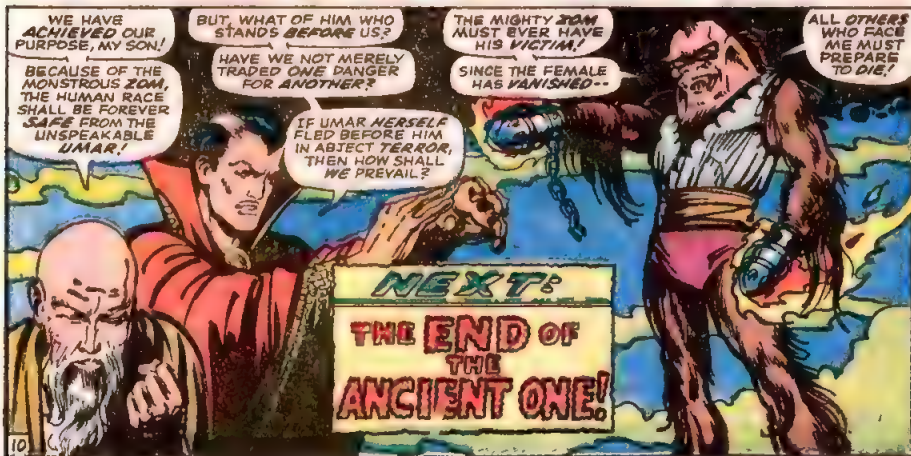
BUT, BEFORE YOU
MEET YOUR FATE,
MY HANDS MUST
BE **FREED**--!

DEMONS OF DARKNESS,
IN THE NAME OF
SATANWISH
BY THE FLAMES OF THE
EALTIME,
LET **UMAR** NOW
VANISH!

NEVER
AGAIN SHALL
I LEAVE THE
DARK
DIMENSION!!
ONLY THERE
CAN I BE
SAFE FROM
ZOM-- THERE,
WHERE **NONE**
CAN FIND
ME!



KRAK KKK!



WE HAVE
ACHIEVED OUR
PURPOSE, MY SON!

BUT, WHAT OF HIM WHO
STANDS BEFORE US?

THE MIGHTY **ZOM**
MUST EVER HAVE
HIS VICTIM!

ALL OTHERS
WHO FACE
ME MUST
PREPARE
TO DIE!

BECAUSE OF THE
MONSTROUS **ZOM**,
THE HUMAN RACE
SHALL BE FOREVER
SAFE FROM THE
UNSPEAKABLE
UMAR!

HAVE WE NOT MERELY
TRADED ONE DANGER
FOR ANOTHER?

SINCE THE FEMALE
HAS VANISHED--

IF **UMAR** HERSELF
FLED BEFORE HIM
IN ABJECT TERROR,
THEN HOW SHALL
WE PREVAIL?

NEXT:
**THE END OF
THE
ANCIENT ONE!**

The Merry Marvel Marching Society



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STRANGE MAILS

Dear Stan,

In the past few issues Shield has improved immensely—both in art and story content. Your newest Bullpen member, Jim Steranko, has great potential as an illustrator. You would have at least one satisfied reader if you would give Jim a chance to do his own layouts. Stan's story in issue #153 was excellent—the accompanying artwork probably had something to do with it! Roy Thomas' scripting was also great. The way things are beginning to shape up now, I wouldn't be surprised if the identity of Hydra's new head turned out to be old Honest Irv himself!

Wally Daniels, 218 W. Seneca
Tampa, Fla.

Who toldja, Wally? Who let the cat out of the bag? It seems we just can't keep a secret here in the Bullpen! Now there's only one thing to do—we'll have to change our entire story line and fix it so that Irving isn't the head of Hydra! Boy! The things we do for you Shield-undeyielders!

Dear Stan,

The Shield series is great in its own way, but you simply must not give Fury a new love life. Lady Pamela Hawley was his one true love. There should never be another. Another request is to get rid of Hydra once and for all. That pompous many-armed organization has never been as colorful as other Shield enemies. Please delimb that hideously-attired group at once. Dr. Strange is taking a turn for the better. His series is reaching new heights. Kaluu was great, and Umar is the best baddie to come along in a long time. But why must you kill off Clea? We never really have been acquainted with her. Now we shall never get the chance! Until Umar reforms, I will always remain a devoted and loyal fan.

Shirley Gorman, P.O. Box 971
Dalhart, Tex. 79022

Thanks, Shirl. Don't worry too much about Clea, hear? We'll try to give you another chance to know her better. If all else fails, we may invite her to the next MMMS parade! (And, in a blushing burst of honesty, it behooves us to say that our next march will also be our first!)

Dear Stan,

After reading issue #152 I must say that you are embarking at the right time on a fight against mindless demons. All the good villains, like Dormammu, are gone, and I don't think I'll ever get used to Umar. As for the good doctor himself, the master magician's mystical marvels for manipulations of matchless miracles against malignant, macabre, morbid, and malicious malefactors, whose malevolence menaces this mad, maudlin mausoleum of miscellaneous, motley, multilingual mortals are nice. His myriad of mitigatory manifestations must maintain conclusively his majestic role as protector of the good and punisher of the evil. There were many more mellifluous mots (that's French!), but my meager mind couldn't manage to mangle them all!

Barry Brookner, 2457 Wood Valley Dr.
East Point, Ga. 30044

By the Shades of the Shadowy Demons, Barry—someone must have given you a typewriter with a couple

of extra "m" keys! Luckily, we were able to follow your meaning and comprehend your message because we're used to reading off-beat missives! (After all, who else could translate the Book of the Vishanti while writing Spider-Man, without batting an eye?) As for your problem in getting used to Umar—forget it! It looks as though Doc himself has the same hang-up!

Dear Stan,

I believe Dr. Strange is one of the most promising features that I've seen, but there aren't enough elements in the story line to keep my interest. So much is shapeless, and nameless. Here are some suggestions—why not introduce other "forces of light and good"? The Ancient One must not necessarily be the only Master. I would like to see emerge a Brotherhood of Good and a Brotherhood of Evil. Perhaps we could see the Ancient One imparting some of his teaching to his disciples, or see Dr. Strange being introduced to some of the mystic wonders or visiting sanctuaries for the mystic arts in the far reaches of the universe. Where does the force of the amulet come from? Who are the Vishanti, Hosts of Hoggoth, Agamotto, etc.? More background! And, finally, I would like to see a character who watches over the whole proceedings (like the Watcher) who may be called the Eye of the Silence or something similar. So what does all this mean? It means I really enjoy your magazines, and I can't keep myself from trying to get in on more of the fun.

David Walker, 45 Winfield
San Francisco, Cal. 94110

Get in on it? Looks like you're harvesting the whole kaboodle, Dave! Anyway, we enjoyed your suggestions—especially since they rather parallel our own thinking. However, we already do have a character who watches over the whole proceedings. But, he isn't called the Eye of Silence, or anything like that. He's more like the Mouth of Confusion, and answers to the name of Smile! So what else is new?

NEXT ISH: It's finally here—the startlingly spell-binding showdown you thought would never come! (As a matter of fact, we almost forgot to do it—you know how our memories are!) It's the ever-lavin' end of the Supreme Hydra—as a fighting-mad Fury and a bombastically baneful Baron Strucker battle hand-to-hand for the greatest stakes of all—the life of an entire planet! And, as if that isn't enough to grab any True Believer, the supernatural saga of the Master of the Mystic Arts takes an incredible, unexpected turn as we bid a fantastic farewell to the Ancient One! As for the monstrous menace of Zom, we dare not tell you what waits in store, for such knowledge might be too dangerous for mere mortals! So, join us next ish as we thrill to STRANGE TALES #157 together—and, whatever you do, don't get pizza stains on your Amulet—it isn't wash 'n wear! Face front, ye Seekers of the Truth—the good times are still ahead!

Must I Lose My Hair



TODAY about 15,000,000 Americans are bald or getting bald. Yet many of them need not have lost their hair, or continue to lose it. If baldness cannot be cured, at least in many cases it can be prevented. In fact, we have been doing just that for 20 years.

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W. T. W., Portola, Cal.

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J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

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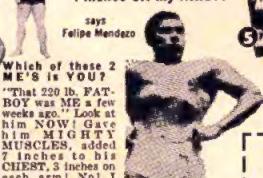
WHICH OF MY 187,000 PUPILS WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

**I GAINED 60 LBS.
OF SHAPELY MIGHTY
MUSCLES**



says JOHN BILL
I added 7 inches to MY CHEST, 3 1/2 INCHES to EACH ARM. No, Pal. You don't have to be a chicken-chested skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.

**"I LOST 30 LBS.
of dangerous
UGLY FAT
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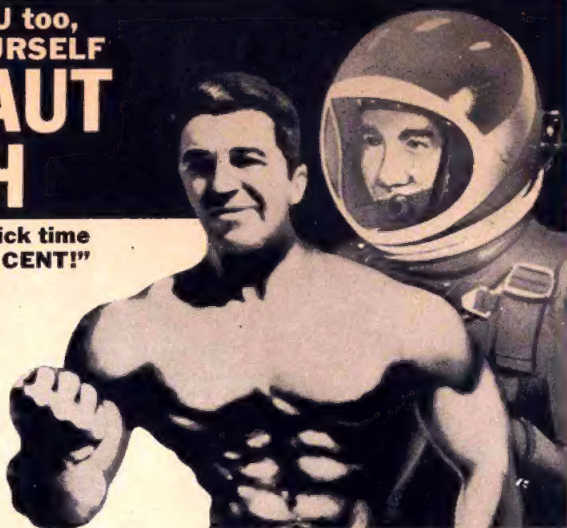
says Felipe Mendez
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